

and sacrifices made by the citizen-soldiers within its ranks in the defense of our nation and our cherished freedoms and liberties, and pay homage to those citizen-soldiers upon this memorable occasion. Be it further

Resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Major General Arlan M. DeBlieck, Commanding General of the 81st Regional Support Command, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

**CONGRATULATING BOB
HENDERSON**

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bob Henderson on being elected Commander of the Illinois American Legion, the nation's largest wartime veteran's service organization.

Mr. Henderson grew up in Central Illinois and served in the United States Navy from 1961–1965. He has been a member of the American Legion since 1967. He became Post Commander in his hometown of Homer in 1977, and later Adjutant and Finance Officer in Urbana in 1998.

Having completed electrician training in the Navy, Mr. Henderson continued to work in the profession after his discharge until his retirement in 2005, when he became further involved in the American Legion. He served as Department Historian before being elected as District Commander in 2010 and was elected as Senior Vice Commander for the Illinois Department in 2016. Last year, he was elected to serve as the Commander for the Illinois Department for 2017–2018.

Mr. Henderson is a remarkable example of a dedicated public servant. I am proud of his accomplishments and thankful for his service to our country. It is an honor to represent him in the 13th District of Illinois.

Mr. Henderson will be a strong leader for the American Legion and I wish him the best in serving his fellow servicemembers.

**CONGRATULATING THE ARBOR
CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND**

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arbor Creek Middle School Band of Lewisville Independent School District on being selected to perform in the 71st Annual Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

The Arbor Creek Band, directed by Mr. Rylon Guidry, has been recognized as one of the premiere middle school band programs in the state of Texas. Among their numerous honors, Arbor Creek's band has won the Foundation for Music Education's Mark of Excellence: National Wind Band Honors Contest on three occasions, was first runner-up in the 2016–2017 Texas Music Educators Association's Honor Band State Contest, and receives the University Interscholastic League Sweepstakes Award on a yearly basis.

This December, the Arbor Creek Band will perform at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago as one of only four middle school bands across the world chosen as an official performance group. This incredible honor is a testament to the hard work and dedication of these students.

The following musicians will represent Arbor Creek Middle School this December at the 71st Annual Midwest Clinic: Bailey Arrington, Ana Jones, Veronica Juarez, Larissa Kim, Nandita Kumar, Nancy Liu, Kaitlin Lutz, Hannah Mathai, Suhani Rana, Phil Tran, D'Marco DeLeon, Lillian Mulupi, Makayla Newell, Reagan Reasonover, Skylar Bohlman, Caroline Burrow, Tatum Gray, Olivia McClenaghan, Tessa Boyce, George Cardozo.

Dana Gingrey, Sarah Hurtado, Caeli Hwang, Brianna Kirkman, Marissa Kouba, Michelle Lee, Jestin Sifonte, Sean Simpson, Kamarion Hooks, Logan Stewart, Jaden Coleman, Spencer Griffin, Natalie Helmick, Aaron Martinez, Leia Phillips, Aditya Subramaniam, Gavin Dirks, Aden Robinson, Aidan Roark, Barrett Adams.

Richard Boudreau, Andrew Degan, Parker Guerry, Casey Ivanoff, Kaili Mancha, Joseph Miller, Lela Oliveira, Lily Rainey, Eloy Trevino, David Vazquez, Joel Weber, Ian Wright, Srushti S. Agashe, Weslyn Brown, Christopher Calltharp, Elayna Felder, Hudson Marr, Jamie Pina, Brendan Schmidt, Michelle Waida, Chance Akin, Ian Boggs.

Dylan Castillo, Malik Hamza, Aidan Lester, Jayden Mitchell, Matthew Mussell, Lance Wood, Garrett Baker, Trevor Hoffman, Grace McClenaghan, Adam Ronderos, Lucas Wittrup, Ryan Alonzo, Zachary Schroer, Neel Vavilapalli, Kyler Beck, Lauren Bond, Trace Downey, Parker Freeburg, Nhat-Tam Nguyen, Colby Petty, Alexander Walters, Ethan Watson, and Esther Yoo.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize these outstanding young musicians and congratulate them on this monumental achievement. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Arbor Creek Middle School Band on its selection to perform in the 71st Annual Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF
BATTALION CHIEF GARY HELMING**

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Los Padres National Forest Santa Lucia Ranger District Battalion Chief Gary Helming. Chief Helming lost his life on August 31, 2017 while returning home from fighting a wildfire in the Sierra National Forest in Mariposa County.

I am deeply saddened to have learned of Chief Helming's death. After courageously serving as a firefighter for more than 20 years with the United States Forest Service, this is a heavy loss for our community and the many lives he touched.

His valiant work and leadership as an emergency first responder in Santa Barbara County is among the finest in the county and he was recognized as the Santa Maria Elks Lodge Firefighter of the Year.

Firefighters, like Gary Helming, are selfless heroes who put their lives on the front lines to protect our communities.

I had the honor of meeting Chief Helming this past July when he loaned me his boots and we toured the damage done by the Alamo and Whittier fires in the Central Coast. It was a true privilege to see firsthand Chief Helming's service and dedication to his community.

In addition to his service with the U.S. Forest Service, Gary Helming was a beloved father, husband and friend. At 47 years old, he is survived by his wife, Andrea, and their three children, Riley, Walker, and Nalani. His service and sacrifice to his community will not be forgotten.

**ASSISTANT CHIEF TIMOTHY W.
TOMPKINS RETIRES FROM THE
CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding law enforcement career of Timothy W. Tompkins, who will retire from his position as the Assistant Chief of Protective Services Division for the California Highway Patrol on September 30, 2017. Born and raised in Minnesota, Assistant Chief Tompkins graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy in 1989.

Assistant Chief Tompkins served in a variety of capacities during his career, including Field Training Officer, Drug Recognition Expert, Special Response Team Commander, and member of the Governor's Protective Detail. Most notable for me was the time he spent as the Area Commander for the Morongo Basin, a region that I call home. Assistant Chief Tompkins was an integral part of our community and represented the highest values of the California Highway Patrol.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to thank Assistant Chief Tompkins for his 29 years of service to the citizens of California. His professionalism and dedication to the profession of law enforcement reflects great credit upon himself and the California Highway Patrol.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 439 and 440.

**HONORING JENNIFER LOUISE
STENGER MARINACE**

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jennifer Louise Stenger